

# *The Flivver Flash*

The Official Newsletter of the Space City Ts of Houston, TX

## A VISITOR FROM AFAR

By Bill Severn

Long, Long, Ago in A Galaxy Far, Far Away; OK that's an exaggeration. I don't know why I took so long to write this.

A few years ago, June 2016 to be exact, I saw a post while reading the [MTFCA General Discussion Forum](#). A gentleman named Ockert Vander Berg from South Africa was planning to travel through Houston in July on his way to a job assignment in Mexico.

He worked for an international food manufacturing company and was to accomplish the start-up certification of a new manufacturing facility in Mexico. Due to airline connections, his trip allowed a two-day stay in Houston.

The post on the Forum asked if there were Model T people in Houston that he could get in touch with. I responded that I was a Model T owner and invited him to stay at my house for his Houston stay.

After his arrival, we did some Model T driving, visited some friends with Model Ts, and generally had a great time.



Ockert and my 1916 Touring Car



Ockert and me visiting a friends Model Ts

Ockert told me about the fantastic Model T Ford Club of South Africa (MTFCSA) and their tours and events. MTFCSA is such an interesting and active club.

Ockert also mentioned the struggle the members have in obtaining Model T parts. The fact is that shipping and taxes make everything so expensive. Ockert indicated that, due to the expense, club members are bending metal and making their own body panels and fenders. Without a doubt, that takes a lot of time and talent and is truly a challenge.

I have kept in touch with Ockert over the years and consider him a good friend. If I ever get the chance, I'm going to visit Ockert and the members of the MTFCSA.

## The South Side goes to Breakfast

By Richard Tomlinson

In answer to the North Side breakfast request in the April Flivver Flash, the South Side Space City Ts of Houston met at my (new member Richard Tomlinson's barndominium) garage to show off, drive, and discuss my new-old 27 Doctors Coupe on Wednesday, March 26.



We shared some coffee and kolaches and had several veteran T 'masters' sharing information and tips on getting the coupe started. In attendance were Dave Lucas, Steve Wirtes, Alex Pinozy, Bobby Wright, Dave Veir, Jerry Smith, Anthony Marino, and me.



Richard



Dave L., Steve W., and Dave V.



Jerry and Bobby

Dave Lucas and Anthony Marino volunteered to teach me how to drive. I had only backed the T out of the delivery van prior to this.



Anthony was brave enough to ride as a passenger showing me how to drive a T. I felt like I was in high school drivers ed. With the help of Anthony's commands, I was able to drive the T all around our subdivision, starting, changing from low to high, stopping and restarting, if I stalled.

Anthony is a great teacher and since this lesson, I have watched his YouTube video several times (Anthony teaching his daughter) to reinforce the learning from that lesson. Looking forward to showing the T in Seabrook, TX at Keels and Wheels on May 3-5. Also looking forward to more involvement with the Houston T club.

This is the YouTube video teaching YouTube member 'dallasdoll' (Jaclyn Marino Cellini) [how to drive a 1924 Model TT truck](#) 17 years ago.

This YouTube has been viewed over 150,000 times, has over 190 comments, and 'dallasdoll' has 103 subscriptions.

Good friends and good conversation with a new club member. This is what Model T'ing is all about.

Come on North Side, let's hear back from you!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAMIE

By Denny Irvine

For those of you who were in the Space City Club and knew Delton and Mamie Stokes, you'll remember that they were the sparkplug of the Houston T's. For those of you who didn't know them, you can only hope to accomplish as much as the two of them did.

Delton has passed on, but on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, Mamie celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with family and friends in Sugarland where she still lives in her own home.



Her two daughters packed her home with well-wishers and delicious snacks for the event.

## Lecture at McFaddin-Ward Museum, May 8<sup>th</sup>

From: Greg Riley <greg@gsriley.com>

This is information regarding the Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> lecture at the McFaddin-Ward Museum in Beaumont. Key points:

On Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup> McFaddin-Ward Museum will host a lecture by Matt Anderson, Curator of Transportation at The Henry Ford Museum. I was asked to locate a small group of museum quality cars to display a couple of hours ahead of the lecture. Lecture is from 5-6:30.

We are asking to have the cars in position at the McFaddin-Ward visitors center by 3:30 p.m.

Here is a preliminary list of cars for the display:

1910 Bianchi Landauet Limousine (thought to be the only remaining example)

1913 Ford Model T “wide-track”

1919 Locomobile Touring Car

1936 Cord 810.

1937 Packard LeBaron Town Car

1956 Continental Mark II (if not able to attend I will bring my 1957 Ford Skyliner)

1961 Pontiac Bonneville convertible (Beaumont car)

2006 Ford GT Heritage Edition (Beaumont car)  
Although this is a newer car but is historically important.

Please advise if I have made any errors regarding the year/make/model of your car.

We will have a small reception for the group of display cars before the event starts.

I will make restaurant reservations for the group after the lecture is over.

Anyone is welcome at the lecture. We are encouraging everyone to drive their collector car to the event. The exhibition cars will have reserved parking in front of the visitor’s center.

I’m going to Beaumont and will send hotel information soon.

On Friday May 9<sup>th</sup> I will host an abbreviated tour of historic Beaumont.

If there is enough interest, I can make this a Friday/Saturday tour such as we did last year. Please advise your thoughts.

All members of your club are welcome at the lecture and on the Friday (and potentially Saturday) tour.

All tour cars will be given walkie-talkies for rolling commentary.

McFaddin-Ward Museum has asked me for a list of the clubs to which you belong for use in their press releases.

Antique Automobile Club of America – Katy Cruisers

Antique Automobile Club of America – Gulf Coast Region

Packard’s International – Lonestar Packard’s

Model T Ford Club of America – Space City Ts of Houston, TX.

Classic Car Club of America

Please advise if I have missed anything.

Please send me your favorite glamour shot of your car.

Please submit one or two paragraphs about your car for the press release.

I will have my Beaumont friends to assist with everything, and we will have a chase car equipped to deal with roadside issues. For more serious issues a truck and trailer will be standing by.

McFaddin-Ward Museum and city government have asked me to share how excited they are to see you, and the red carpet will be out!

All Space City Ts of Houston club members are welcome to attend the lecture on Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup> and join the tour on Friday (maybe Saturday). **Bill Severn’s 1913 Touring will be one of the display cars.** They are expecting standing room only for the lecture.

One important addition is that we will tour the spectacular J. Cooke Wilson house which has many similarities to Ima Hogg’s home Bayou Bend. This is a private residence which is not open to the public. J. Cooke Wilson was the founder of Humble Oil Company, and the house reflects the taste of someone of unlimited resources.

Please advise if there is interest in a Friday/Saturday tour, or Friday only. I will be back at you soon with hotel information. Thanks so much,

Greg Riley

832-934-4281 work

936-524-7346 mobile

**To make a gift to support the Model T Museum, [click here](#) or go here: [www.MTFCA.com](http://www.MTFCA.com)**

## Restoring a Growler to its Glory Days

By Steve Havemann

What is a Growler: Nick Nicholas and Mike Bender put out a good YouTube on Restoring a Model T Generator and another one on Restoring a Model T Starter. They define a growler as an electrical device used for testing insulation of an armature for a short.

- The alternating magnetic flux set up by the growler passes through the windings of the armature coil generating an alternating voltage in the coil. A short in the coil creates a closed circuit that will act like the secondary coil of a transformer, with the growler acting like the primary coil.
- This will induce an alternating current in the shorted armature that will in turn cause an alternating magnetic field to encircle the shorted armature coil.
- A flat, broad, flexible piece of metal containing iron is used to detect the magnetic field generated by a shorted armature.

- A hacksaw blade is commonly used as a feeler.

Using a Continuity Test to Determine the condition of the Armature:

- A continuity tester is used to determine if an electrical path can be established between two points.
- The armature is good if there is no continuity between the segment and the commutator.
- As with the growler, each segment must be checked.

How to use a growler:

Here is a link to a YouTube video on how to use a growler:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lk8UEaEcZME&t=69s>

This guy restored a growler, and it looks very similar to the Allen Electric E-32, that I used. I suggest watching the video prior to using the growler.

What motivated me to seek out a growler?

By the end of the Brenham day tour the starter on the 1922 Touring stopped working. Additionally, the generator stopped putting out any amps. To troubleshoot both, there was a need to determine what parts are causing issues, and a growler was the best solution for testing the armature.

Not having a growler in my back pocket, a message was put on the GroupMe application to see if anyone in the club had a growler.

Dave Lucas responded and said he had one somewhere in his shop but had never used it, and knew at a minimum, it needed to a new electrical cord.



The is the growler opened for the first time exposing old wiring some of which had been replaced before. On some of the cords, the exterior insulation was falling off to the touch.



First, I need to explain, I am not an electrical engineer. So, I am scratching my head trying to understand the wiring. Google searches for wiring diagrams failed me. And searches for Allen Electric & Equipment found no manuals online for the E-32 model. It appears Allen went out of business in the 70s. I guess that was before the internet.

When all else fails, dive in headfirst ... what is the worst that could happen? Step one,

replace the power cord. Dave provided a power cord. Connect the black wire to the switch where the black wire from the old power cord was attached.



Next, connect the white neutral wire to all the neutral wires. But wait, this power cord has a green ground wire (the previous cord didn't have a ground wire). Seems like it would be good to modernize the device by connecting the ground wire for safety. After all, in the early 1900s nothing was grounded.

Spoiler Alert ... grounding was a really bad idea!

Second, let's replace the wiring to the probes for the commutator testing (Continuity Test). I had some old computer power cords laying around waiting to be repurposed. A snip here, a solder there, done. To connect wires from the switch to the new wires rather than using a wire nut, a modern GKEEMARS wire connector was used (the gray things seen in the picture – on one the orange levers can be seen).



Put the cover on and test. With the armature on the growler the power switch was flipped on and the growling started. Using a

metallic blade, no shorts were found. The starter armature passes test one.



Second test – Continuity Test: Turn on the switch, place one probe on the armature shaft and ... now for the promised

spoiler alert ... sparks fly and the house electrical breaker trips!

Reset the breaker and notice the light is on (to see the light you look through the holes on the right side. The light being on is a failing condition, but the probes are not touching anything yet.

Again, touch the probe to the armature shaft and the electrical breaker trips. It has now been proven the process is repeatable.

Time to consult with my partners in crime, Dave Lucas, Anthony Marino, Bobby Wright and Denny Irvine. I sent the video to them, and they are as perplexed as me. Turning to the MTFCA Forum, I searched for growlers and nothing helpful was found. So, I made a post on the MTFCA forum, and James Bartsch replied and said some people would connect the ground wire to the frame and make the frame hot. James nicely said connecting the ground wire was not to be done.

Anthony did find some instructions for how to use the growler and emailed those to me. With the advice from James and the instructions from Anthony, I mustered up a shot of courage, disconnected the ground wire and performed the continuity test. Whew, no sparks. Even better, no light. The continuity test passes. Two down, one to go.

The amps test is the last test. It is generally a simple test, turn on the growler, and place the contacts of the probe on two bars (my word

for it not necessarily correct) of the commutator at a time and look for an amp reading. Moving one bar over and repeat until all fields are tested. No movement

should be seen on the meter. Turn the knob to adjust the rheostat and nothing happens, additionally there is no resistance when turning the knob.

I flip over the unit over and hear something loose in the rheostat housing. A dab of JB Weld to the rescue and the rheostat is working. Performed a successful amp test.

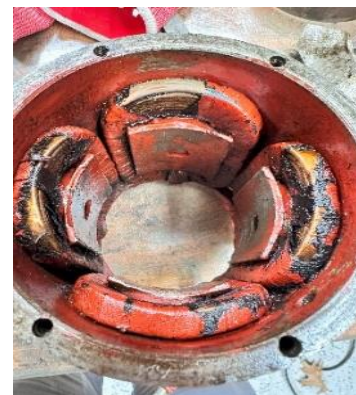


The starter armature passes all 3 growler tests.



Dave Lucas says it is ok to clean up the growler and restore it to its former glory. Here are the before and after pictures.

If you find yourself in need of a Growler, just reach out on GroupMe. If you have not joined GroupMe, please do. GroupMe is a great way to communicate with Space City T members.



Just not to leave everyone hanging on what appears to be issue with the starter ... field coils are missing insulation and must be shorting out.

Space City Ts Website: [www.spacecityts.org](http://www.spacecityts.org)

Email: [modelt@spacecityts.org](mailto:modelt@spacecityts.org)

FB: [Space City Ts of Houston Facebook](#)



## Two Museums for One Price

By Doug Brough

In March of this year, we had the opportunity to visit the Auburn, Cord, Duesenberg Museum in Auburn, IN. Yet another museum of very unusual cars, all in meticulous condition.



While you will see a lot of Cords, Auburns and Duesenbergs, they do have a lot of other cars too.



The museum is 3 floors, 2 of which are packed with cars. The museum also has a recreation of the offices of the Auburn car company.





A surprise, the National Auto & Truck Museum is also on the same block. A \$25 ticket gets you access to both. This museum also has two packed floors.



The top floor is mostly classic cars (1960's-1980's) with a few earlier cars. The basement is filled with trucks from the early 1900's to the 1980's.



I got a chuckle out of the homemade Model T buzz saw and the plaque's writeup including "Such a homemade adaptation wouldn't comply with today's OSHA standards".



If you ever visit the Model T Museum in Richmond, IN, just head about 120 miles north and you can visit these 2 museums.

**2025 TEXAS T PARTY, MARSHALL, TX  
OCTOBER 7-12, 2025**



**FOUR DAYS IN EAST TEXAS!**

Host hotel:

**Hampton Inn Marshall, 5100 E End Blvd S, Marshall, TX 75672**

To book: 1. Go to [www.hamptoninn.com](http://www.hamptoninn.com)

2. In Where to? Type Marshall, TX

3. Select Check-in Check out dates.

4. Click Special Rates, Scroll the Group Code type: **TTP**

5. Click Find a Hotel

It will be the first hotel in the list. Room rate \$119+tax

(You may also call 1-800-426-7866. Inform agent of code **TTP**)

Hot breakfast, Pet Friendly. **Group rate expires September 23, 2025**

2<sup>nd</sup> Hotel:

**Quality Inn Marshall, 4911 E End Blvd S, Marshall, TX 75672**

903-935-7923, Call to book, use code **Texas T Party**.

Room rate: \$86+tax single \$90+tax double

Hot breakfast, NOT pet friendly. **Group rate expires July 30, 2025**

Other hotels:

**Clarion Pointe Marshall**

5301 E End Blvd S, Marshall, TX 75672, 903-927-0009

**Comfort Suites Marshall**

5204 E End Blvd S, Marshall, TX 75672, 903-927-1139



The Flivver Flash is published by the Space City T's chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America in Houston, Texas twelve times per year. This newsletter is produced for the education and enjoyment of members and those expressing interest in joining the Space City T's. Said education and enjoyment is as it pertains to the Model T Ford automobile. The Flivver Flash is also shared with other antique auto clubs. Other clubs may use articles from this publication with credit to this newsletter or the original source. News, articles, ads or anything of interest to the club must be submitted to the editor by the 27th of the month preceding the month of publication. E-mailing occurs the last day of the month. Annual club dues are \$25 per year.

**2025 Space City Club Officers and Board Members**  
 President Steve Havemann 281-433-5182  
 Vice President David Veir 713-823-2359  
 Secretary Rosie Stokley 832-444-9927  
 Treasurer Craig Neuman 346-855-0544  
 Board Member Bill Severn 936-443-8006  
 Board Member Mike Schlitzkus 281-387-6658  
 Board Member Dave Lucas 713-299-3059

### The FLIVVER FLASH

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email: [modelt@spacecityts.org](mailto:modelt@spacecityts.org)

website: [www.spacecityts.org](http://www.spacecityts.org)

#### For Sale: 1914 Model T Touring Car



It is a T-2000 New Body from Sweden. New Body includes splash shields, running boards, fenders, hood. Rebuilt Engine. Radiator is new, Re-wooded wheels. NEW top, interior, seat springs. New wood in original top bows. All lights original. Original windshield new safety glass. New tires. Driven 100 miles since restoration.

**\$20,500**

Contact Gator Gould  
 Monroeville, AL  
 251-765-2677

#### FOR SALE

##### 1925 DOCTORS COUPE



PRETTY RED WITH BLACK TRIM. SHE HAS A FEW NICKS BECAUSE I DRIVE HER. RUNS REALLY GOOD, POWERFUL, ENGINE DOES 45MPH WITH EASE. GARAGED, NO RUST. MOSTLY ORIGINAL, EXCEPT DISTRIBUTOR AND INSIDE KIT. HAS LEATHER AND WOOD PANELS. FOR MORE INFO ON ENGINE CALL ROSS AT LILLEKER

AUTO. **\$12,000**

**ROSEMARY STOKLEY**

**KATY, TX 1-832-444-9927**

## New Members Wanted

Please visit our [Space City T's of Houston Texas web site](http://SpaceCityTsofHoustonTexas.com). If interested in becoming a member, please provide your name, address, mobile phone, & email, and make a \$25 check payable to the:

### Space City T's

Please mail your [information form](#) and check to the Treasurer at:

**Craig Neuman**  
**2302 Lord Nelson Drive**  
**Seabrook, TX 77586**

*A special "Thank You" to all club members who paid their 2025 dues!*

The Space City T's Club is the Houston, Texas chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America. All questions concerning membership, The Vintage Ford magazine, the MTFCA library, chapter insurance, purchase of manuals, back magazine issues, or store items can be directed to the following:

#### Model T Ford Club of America

309 N. 8th Street  
 Richmond, IN 47374-3034  
 Phone: 765-373-3106

Email: [rachel@mtfca.com](mailto:rachel@mtfca.com)

\$50 annual dues includes six issues of the Vintage Ford  
 Join or Renew at: [MTFCA Join or Renew](#)

## FLIVVER FLASH INPUTS NEEDED

Do you have something to share? A barn find, funny or not so funny Model T stories? Tour photos, or articles about Model T's? Your Model T acquisition stories, restoration photos or swap meet finds? A special interest article?

Please email ads, articles, [photos](#), [stories](#), [videos](#), or [links](#) to: [topkick7@outlook.com](mailto:topkick7@outlook.com)

## CLUB MEETING MONTHLY SCHEDULE

-May 14<sup>th</sup> – 7:30pm Zoom virtual meeting

-June 11<sup>th</sup> – 7:30pm Face to Face at LifeBrook Church  
with Zoom and Demeris BBQ



**Dine with Friends at  
Demeris BBQ at 6:00 P.M.**

**located at**

**1702 West Loop North,  
Suite A, Houston, TX 77008**



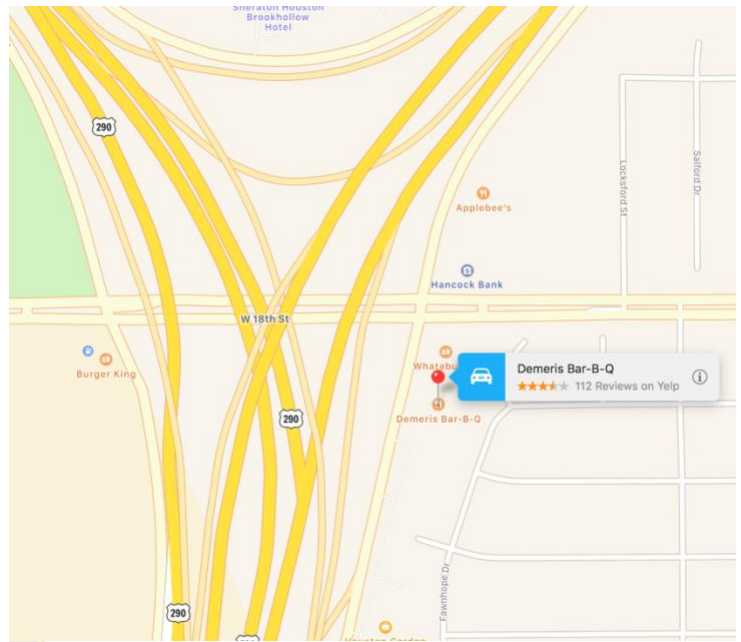
**Then attend the  
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.  
Place:**

**Lifebrook Church**

**1822 West 18th Street in the Heights**

**Website: [www.spacecityts.org](http://www.spacecityts.org)**

**Email: [modelt@spacecityts.org](mailto:modelt@spacecityts.org)**



### Directions to Demeris BBQ

From the east or west on I-10 or the south side of downtown, take the I-610 West Loop North and get off at the 18th Street Exit. Demeris BBQ will be immediately on the right after Houston Garden Nursery.

From the west on Highway 290, exit at Mangum and turn right to 18th Street. At 18th, turn left, cross under West Loop and turn into the Whataburger parking lot on the right. Proceed to Demeris BBQ after the Whataburger.

From the north on I-45, take the 610 North Loop West around to the I-610 West Loop South to the Hempstead Highway exit. Make a U-turn under I-610 and proceed north on the frontage road to just before 18th Street, Demeris BBQ will be on your right after Houston Garden Center.



**First Class Mail**



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